

1 AUG 1977

EO-12958
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Advisory Group Members

SUBJECT : Minutes of the 26 July 1977 Executive
Advisory Group Meeting

CC: DDP/A/ODP
DD/P

1. The Executive Advisory Group (EAG) met on 26 July 1977 to consider the balance which the Agency should be striving to achieve between centralized and decentralized automatic data processing (ADP) facilities. The Director of Data Processing had distributed a paper (EAG 21/a) on this subject to EAG members prior to the meeting.


2. Mr. May summarized the paper, which was based upon a study requested by the DDCI. It concludes that a flexible centralized/decentralized ADP balance is desirable; that, while the use of minicomputers will grow, there will be a continuing need for a large, centralized ADP facility; that ADP professionalism must be maintained; that a central source of professional ADP advice and assistance must be made available to Agency components; and that central ADP policy formulation and planning must be improved. It recommends that mini-computers be employed on a case-by-case basis where they are cost effective; that the Agency plan for the growth of minicomputers; that the Office of Data Processing (ODP) be assigned responsibility for providing Agency-wide ADP technical support; that a new component, probably at the Agency level, be assigned responsibility for comprehensive ADP planning, policy formulation, external representation, and standards; that the Office of Personnel (OP) conduct a feasibility study of a career service for ADP professionals; and that resources be made available for ODP and the proposed new component to carry out the above responsibilities.

3. EAG members commented favorably upon the report and generally agreed with the recommendations. However, there was no consensus on where the new policy and planning component should be located. Mr. Taylor said that placing the unit within the Office of the Comptroller might be unsatisfactory because it could become too budget oriented. Mr. Blake, Acting DDCI and EAG Chairman, commented that he was opposed to attaching such a unit to the Office of the DDCI. He felt

that the Agency should use existing operating components as much as possible, while recognizing that there are some functions which must be performed at a centralized level.

4. At Mr. Blake's suggestion, it was agreed that, in view of major organizational changes which may occur soon as the result of PRM-11 deliberations, EAG decision on the recommendations would be suspended until there is a more definite indication of the impact of those deliberations.

STATINTL


James H. Taylor
Secretary
Executive Advisory Group

cc: Mr. May